

**PROPOSED
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

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WILDLAND FIRE COMMUNICATIONS**

Finding: *(i.e., Conclusions reached after investigation and/or evaluation of facts)*

Interagency communications during wildland fire occurrences is at times delayed and confusing.

Background and Supporting Evidence: *(A short statement justifying the Finding and describing desired outcome(s); usually no more than half a page.)*

Recent wildland fire responses by Federal, local and state resources has been confusing due in part to the number of dispatch centers. Currently resources are dispatched from :

- East Placer (Tahoe City, CA) – North Tahoe FPD, Meeks Bay FPD
- City of South Lake Tahoe – City of South Lake Tahoe FD, Lake Valley FPD, Fallen Leaf FD
- Incline – North Lake Tahoe FPD
- Douglas County – Tahoe-Douglas FPD
- Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center – Nevada Division of Forestry
- West Placer (Grass Valley, CA) – Cal Fire – Nevada/Yuba/Placer Counties
- Camino Interagency Dispatch Center – Forest Service, CalFire El Dorado/Amador Counties

Agreements between all the agencies are in place whereby upon a dispatch going out from one the Dispatch Centers, That Center, by agreement, will immediately notify the Camino Interagency Dispatch Center who will then serve as the single point for additional dispatches and ordering of additional resources for the wildland fire response.

However, the numerous Dispatch Centers have been less than responsive to these agreements, delaying notification to the Camino Center by as much as several hours. This causes confusion in ordering of additional resources for the fire and confusion as to which agency is responsible for the resource orders associated with the Fire.

Once a wildland fire is responded to, by agreement, all agencies will use the local “Whitefire” radio frequencies for communications while going to and on the fire. Again, this has been an implementation issue.

Recommendation(s) *(Based upon an analysis of the Finding, the following recommendation(s) should be made to the Governors):*

1. To avoid continued confusion, all Dispatch Centers and responding resources will adhere to the existing agreements, including:
 - Immediately notifying the Camino Interagency Dispatch Center of a wildland fire call/dispatch
 - Camino will serve as the single (and only) point of ordering resources for the wildland fire response
 - The local "Whitefire" radio frequency will be used for all multiagency wildland fire response
2. Through the process of the development of an Annual Operating Plan, all cooperating Agencies and Fire Protection Districts/Departments will develop an agreement for the status of fire fighting resources moving into or through different dispatch areas for the purposes of notification of location and availability for response to an incident.

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

- ☐ Cost – No Cost for implementation
- ☐ Funding source – Not Applicable
- ☐ Staffing – no additional staffing needs
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws – conforms with existing agreements

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Interagency